

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/084,322	MINAGAWA ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Kimbinh T. Nguyen	2671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 09/24/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8,10-15 and 17-24.
3. The drawings filed on 28 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/24/04 has been entered.

2. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-24 are pending in the application.

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 8 and 15, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page, which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, wherein the apparatus uses image data, including the balloon portion and the frame image, and text data indicating words in order to display words based on the text data in the balloon portion; and wherein the electronic comic is displayed frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each frame sequentially.

Claims 3, 10 and 17, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion

displaying words and a frame image, comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying frames on one page, and performing either fade-in processing or fade-out processing on a predetermined frame of the displayed frames.

Claims 5, 12 and 19, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying words part by part within the balloon portion in a predetermined order.

Claims 6, 13 and 20, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying on one page, and sequentially displaying frames including words in the balloon portion and performing either fade-in or fade-out on the displayed words.

Claims 7, 14 and 21, the prior art does not teach an electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying on one page, and sequentially

displaying words in a predetermined frame of the displayed frames in a predetermined frame order.

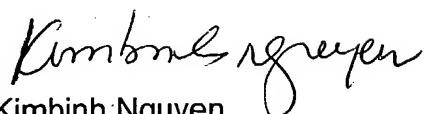
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimbinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-9683. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Zimmerman, can be reached at (703) 305-9798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 10, 2004


Kimbinh Nguyen

Patent Examiner AU 2671